

~~SECRET~~

25X1

OCI NO. 4501
COPY NO. 9

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
22 June 1953

COMMENT ON CAMBODIAN KING'S RETURN

The king returned to Cambodia on 20 June and, according to the press, intends to remain for the present at a Cambodian town near the Thai border. There is no indication when he will return to his capital. By staying in this area, which has been a focal point of dissident strength, the king would avoid giving the impression that he is submitting to French pressure.

In any case, the king's return should not be regarded as a confession of failure. He plainly stated that the purpose of his leaving Cambodia was to publicize the Cambodian position and he has accomplished this. The limitations placed on his activities by Thai officials probably contributed to his decision to return.

He is probably aware that his capacity to influence the French personally and directly is very slight. The king has believed that he had to work largely through world opinion, hence his rather theatrical actions over the past two months. He may also have had in mind the effect of his acts on the Vietnamese, since rising nationalistic pressure in one country tends to intensify demands for independence in the other and thus the two become mutually supporting.

The king's increasing intimacy with anti-French elements and a sense of frustration after several years of rather fruitless negotiations with the French might conceivably impel him, unless some compromise is effected soon, to instigate armed rebellion. However, there is no evidence that such a move is imminent or that Cambodian opinion demands it.

Document No.	044	25X1
No Change in Class.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declassified		
Class. Changed To:	TS S C	
Auth:	HR 70-2	
Date:	13 JUL 1970	
By:		

~~SECRET~~